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E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ARGENTINA: MRS. PERON'S LAST DAYS?

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER 19 BOTH THE REBELS AND THE GOVERNMENT
HELD FAST TO THEIR POSITIONS, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A
CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION DIMINISHING. IN IMPORTANT DEVELOP-
MENTS:

--ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF VIDELA ISSUED A STATEMENT
CALLING ON THE ARMY TO REMAIN DISCIPLINED AND DIS-
INTERESTED.

--THE REBELS RETAINED CONTROL OF AN AIRPORT AND ONE, OR
POSSIBLY TWO, AIRBASES.

--THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS ARE RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE
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HAVE CALLED FOR MRS. PERON'S REMOVAL.

--MRS. PERON STEADFASTLY REFUSES TO RESIGN, BUT HAS
TAKEN NO ACTION AGAINST THE REBELS.

AT 6:35 P.M. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SMITH CALLED THE OPERATIONS
CENTER TO REPORT:

--THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION BEING WORKED OUT
BY CIVILIANS IN THE CONGRESS NO LONGER EXISTS.

--THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THE CGT MAY CALL
FOR WORKERS TO MOBILIZE IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESI-
DENT.

--SEVERAL ARMY AND NAVY UNITS ARE GROWING IMPATIENT.

MR. SMITH COMMENTED:

--MATTERS MAY COME TO A CRUNCH THIS WEEKEND.

--VIDELA'S STATEMENT, INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED BY
SOME AS SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT, WAS MEANT ONLY
TO MARK TIME FOR THE ARMY.

ARA COMMENT: WE HAVE SEEN THIS COMING FOR A LONG
TIME. WE PERCEIVE NO THREAT TO US INTERESTS, AS
NEITHER CONTENDER IS LEFT-WING OR ANTI-AMERICAN. THE
SITUATION IS NOW STALEMATED, WITH NEW FLUIDITY POSSIBLE
SHOULD THE CGT ACT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 8277,
12/19; BUENOS AIRES 8290, 12/19; BUENOS AIRES 8291,
12/19; BUENOS AIRES 8292, 12/20.

2. PRC: CHOU NEAR DEATH?

AUTHOR HAN SUYIN TOLD A FRENCH JOURNALIST THAT SHE
RECENTLY SPOKE WITH TENG YINGCH'AO, WIFE OF CHOU EN-
LAI, IN PEKING. TENG, IN TEARS, SAID THAT CHOU'S
BLADDER CANCER WAS ENTERING ITS FINAL STAGE. (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) PARIS 33080, 12/18.

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3. CYPRUS

A. THE VIEW FROM ATHENS

FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO
AMBASSADOR KUBISCH DECEMBER 18:

--HIS BILATERALS WITH CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS

WENT UNEXPECTEDLY WELL, AND HE IS CONVINCED BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY NOW HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION.

--THOUGH THEY AGREED THE SETTLEMENT WILL BE A

"PACKAGE DEAL", THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS DID NOT DISCUSS ITS SUBSTANCE.

--THE GOT IS ALREADY AWARE OF GREECE'S MINIMUM POSITION--A WEAKENED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, BIZONALITY, AND A TURKISH ZONE OF "LESS THAN 25 PERCENT"--AND KNOWS MAKARIOS IS COMMITTED TO IT.

--THOUGH HE FAVORS NEW YORK AS A SITE, BOTH MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH ARE LIKELY TO PRESS FOR NICOSIA.

--DENKTASH WILL PROBABLY TRY TO SABOTAGE THINGS BY REJECTING GREEK PROPOSALS OUTRIGHT; HE SHOULD BE MADE TO OFFER COUNTER-PROPOSALS.

BITSIOS COMMENTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SEEMED TO BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT MAKARIOS HAD AGREED IN HELSINKI TO A TURKISH ZONE AS LARGE AS 28 PER CENT. THAT WAS NOT HIS UNDERSTANDING, AND HE WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY THE POINT WITH MAKARIOS. (CONFIDENTIAL) EXDIS ATHENS 10032, 12/19.

B. WHEN AND WHERE WILL TALKS RESUME?

SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE DECUELLAR TOLD AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD DECEMBER 17:

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--HE IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS GOING BY MEANS OF PROMPT CONSULTATION WITH ALL PARTIES ON CYPRUS AND WITH GREECE AND TURKEY AS APPROPRIATE.

--HE FEELS THAT THE PROJECTED JANUARY 7 DATE FOR RESUMPTION IS TOO EARLY AND DOESN'T ALLOW FOR SUFFICIENT PREPARATION.

ON DECEMBER 19 THE AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES, WHO SAID CYPRUS COULD NOT BE READY TO RESUME TALKS BEFORE JANUARY 14. (SECRET) EXDIS NICOSIA 3514, 12/19

4. ANGOLA

A. NETO WORRIED ABOUT OVERDEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS?

MPLA LEADER AUGUSTINHO NETO IS WORRIED ABOUT THE HEAVY SOVIET EMBRACE IN WHICH HE NOW FINDS HIMSELF AND WOULD LIKE TO ESCAPE IT. SO SAYS DAVID ROBERTS, FORMER HEAD OF MOBIL OIL IN LISBON. ROBERTS, CITING AN ANGOLAN SOURCE WITH A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NETO, TOLD AMBASSADOR BENNETT AT USUN THAT NETO:

--HAS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS LIKENED HIMSELF TO SADAT, SAYING HE WOULD LIKE TO FIND A WAY BACK TO THE WEST;

--WANTS TO MEET AMERICAN OR OTHER WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN AND TO FIND SOME WAY TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF FROM HIS SOVIET ASSOCIATION. (SECRET) EXDIS USUN 6918, 12/19.

B. FRENCH FEARS

A FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY PARIS:

--FRENCH SHIPS OFF THE ANGOLAN COAST HAVE PICKED UP EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTATION OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT
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OF A "HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED NATURE TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED BY THE PRESENT CONFLICT."

--THIS EQUIPMENT INCLUDES MISSILES.

--THE GOF CONSIDERS THE ANGOLAN SITUATION A SERIOUS ONE CALLING FOR "CONCERTED ACTION" ON THE PART OF THE WEST (HE WAS UNWILLING TO ELABORATE). (CONFIDENTIAL)PARIS 33187, 12/19.

5. PORTUGAL: MORE POLITICAL SHUFFLING

IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS:

--NEGOTIATIONS ON RESTRUCTURING THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT CONTINUED WITH THE NAMING DECEMBER 17 OF ONE INDEPENDENT AND ONE SOCIALIST SUB-SECRETARY.

--PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO MADE SOME CONCESSIONS REGARDING "DIFFERENT CURRENTS" IN THE PARTY TO A GROUP THAT HAD SET CONDITIONS FOR REMAINING

MEMBERS.

--ONE OF THE LEFT-WING DISSIDENTS REJOINED THE
PPD, AND SEVERAL OTHERS ARE NEGOTIATING TO DO SO.

--FABIAO HAS BEEN DEMOTED TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL
AND CARVALHO TO MAJOR.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES WHO LEFT THE
PPD HAVE RECEIVED LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE PARTY RANK
AND FILE. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SA CARNEIRO HAS NOT
PRONOUNCED ON THE STATUS OF THOSE WHO LEFT THE PARTY.
HE WILL CONTINUE TO DECIDE ON THEIR REENTRY ON AN
INDIVIDUAL BASIS AND DOES NOT WANT STRONGLY DISSIDENT
ELEMENTS TO RETURN. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 7560,
12/19.

6. SAHARA: MILITARY SUPPLIES POUR INTO ALGERIA AND
MAURITANIA

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EMBASSIES NOUAKCHOTT AND ALGIERS NOTE:

--MOROCCAN C-130'S ARE STILL LANDING IN NOUAKCHOTT
AT NIGHT, AND A FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT WAS SEEN
LEAVING THE AIRPORT DECEMBER 18.

--IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS AT LEAST SIX SOVIET
VESSELS HAVE UNLOADED AT A NAVAL BASE NEAR ORAN.

--A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE SAYS THE SOVIETS RECENTLY
AGREED TO SUPPLY THE ALGERIANS WITH \$450 MILLION
WORTH OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL)
NOUAKCHOTT 2608, 12/19; ALGIERS 3626, 12/19. KISSINGER

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